

GIRL EATS 100 PINS TO BE ILL

Adopts Peculiar Diet Because She Would Quit School.

[Special Dispatch to the Baltimore Sun.]

Patchogue, N. Y., Jan. 17. — Since Christmas Florence Smith, 14 years old, has swallowed 100 pins, and if something isn't done to destroy her remarkable appetite it's hard to say what she won't add to her diet. Her fondness for pins is an acquired taste. She swallowed the first few to make herself too ill to go to school, but she grew to like them, and before long she ate them as dainties. She began by nibbling at single pins, but she soon got to gulping them by the half dozen. If the family doctor would let her, she'd devour them by the dozen now.

"I don't want to go to school any more," she said to her mother on Christmas Eve.

"Why?" asked Mrs. Smith.

"I want to go to work in the lace mill," answered the girl.

"They won't let you do that till you're further ahead in your studies," her mother informed her.

Florence thought so hard all Christmas Eve that she forgot all about Santa Claus. She kept on thinking Christmas morning, and ate only a little of her Christmas dinner. Not until the mince pie got busy in the course of her afternoon nap did the great pin idea occur to her. She awoke in a more cheerful frame of mind than she had been in for 24 hours. She glanced at her mother, and when Mrs. Smith looked away the little girl furtively swallowed a pin.

It had a brassy taste, but Florence was resolved to be a schoolgirl no longer, so shortly after supper she ate another. She forced down a third pin after she went to bed and next day she ate several more. From that time until New Year's Day she continued the strange diet.

When, on January 1, her mother told her she must go back to school next day she complained of severe pains in her stomach. Next morning the pains were worse, and the girl's condition through the following two weeks became so much more alarming that Mrs. Smith called in the doctor. The physician learned the little girl had eaten five rows of 20 pins each. Whether she will get well is still doubtful.